

AMSS 37th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

“Crossing Boundaries: Mobilizing Faith, Diversity and Dialogue”

Hosted By:

The Harvard Divinity School
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
October 24 – 25, 2008

ABSTRACT ONLY – WORK IN PROGRESS

“Gender Space and Shared Security: Women’s Roles in Peace
and Conflict Resolution in Indonesia”

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Even though men are the leaders, sponsors and perpetrators of inter-religious and ethnic conflicts and violence, their victims are not exclusively men. In places where conflicts and violence are prevalent, women and children suffer the most and are more susceptible to many forms of violence. As male-sponsored violence has devastating effects on women and children, it remains to be investigated how both men and women together, irrespective of religious, cultural and ethnic differences, could unfold the roots of conflicts in an attempt to disseminate a *shared security* as a public good. The question is: What kind of civic responsibility could women offer to inter-religious peace and reconciliation projects? Despite the different variations of women’s cultural roles as *behind-the-scenes* mediators and negotiators within the families, including female social networking, and women’s organizations associated with male leadership, this paper argues that transforming the informal roles of women in the private sphere into a more formal and strategic patterned interaction in the public sphere would promote awareness about gender-shared security as a common ground for human flourishing. Women’s civic responsibility does not only go beyond the strategic attempt to transform the gendered spaces, but it also pursues *shared security* as the pivotal concern of humanity. *Shared security* promotes coexistent living and recognition of others. In view of this argument, this paper examines the strategic transformation of the informal and *behind-the-scenes* roles of women into formal participation in peace and reconciliation projects. It also examines male/female participation in addressing religious and ethnic conflicts through their pursuit of a *shared security* as a civic responsibility.